current Modernising Medical Careers launched by UK Department of Health. The Department of Health has agreed to consider the request of keeping the first round open for Indian doctors. In the first round, NHS proposes to recruit around 10,000 doctors. Further efforts are on to ensure that IMGs are also allowed to appear unconditionally for the second round of recruitment that is likely to take place in April 2007.

Indian workers working abroad without registration

1097. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of migrated Indian workers working overseas without registration with Protector General of Emigration; and

(b) whether Government would bring a comprehensive legislation to prosecute the agencies/agents engaged in illegal migration?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) About 6.77 lakh Indian workers have taken emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants (POEs) during 2006, to work abroad. No record is maintained of persons working abroad who do not require such clearance of POEs.

(b) The Emigration Act, 1983, contains provisions for action against agencies/agents engaged in illegal migration. In cases involving registered recruiting agents, action is taken to suspend/cancel their registration certificate. Similar cases involving un-registered agents are reported to the local police authorities for prosecution.

Harassment of NRIs in Britain

†1098. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Government are harassing Non-Resident Indians by bringing change in the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.